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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949



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OF
OSGOLD CROSS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1949

BY

J. F. FRASER.

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
9, Horsefair,
Pontefract.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of the District during the year 1949.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

The National Health Service has now been with us for over a year. Many of the difficulties it brought with it are still with us. The dental service is still overrun, and there is still delay in obtaining spectacles for school children, though of recent months the waiting time has been reduced. We still have too few hospital beds; the shortage of sanatorium accommodation for the tuberculous patient is, if anything, more acute.

The housing position remains a matter of serious concern. Despite every effort there appear to be more people needing houses than there were twelve months ago. The adverse effect on health which results is difficult to assess accurately, but in view of the increased risk of acquiring infection and the obvious discomforts of overcrowding, there must be much misery caused through friction with landlords, family rows, and uncertainty regarding the future.

Our project for improving the water supplies of the District is now going ahead and 1950 should see a mains water supply at Birkin and Heck.


In the field of sewerage much remains to be done.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

John F. Mearns

Medical Officer of Health.



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P A R T O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District: 33,954 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of population: 7,560

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1949: 2,308

Rateable value at end of 1949: £28,315

Product of a penny rate(at 31st December,1949): £105

These figures show a population decrease of 230.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| <u>Live Births.</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 58 | 59 | 117 |
| Illegitimate | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Total | 68 | 66 | 134 |

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population - 17.72

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Rate per 1,000(live and still)births - 7.40

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population- 0.13

| <u>Deaths.</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| All age groups | 44 | 41 | 85 |
| Infants under 1 year | | | |
| Legitimate | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Maternal Deaths.

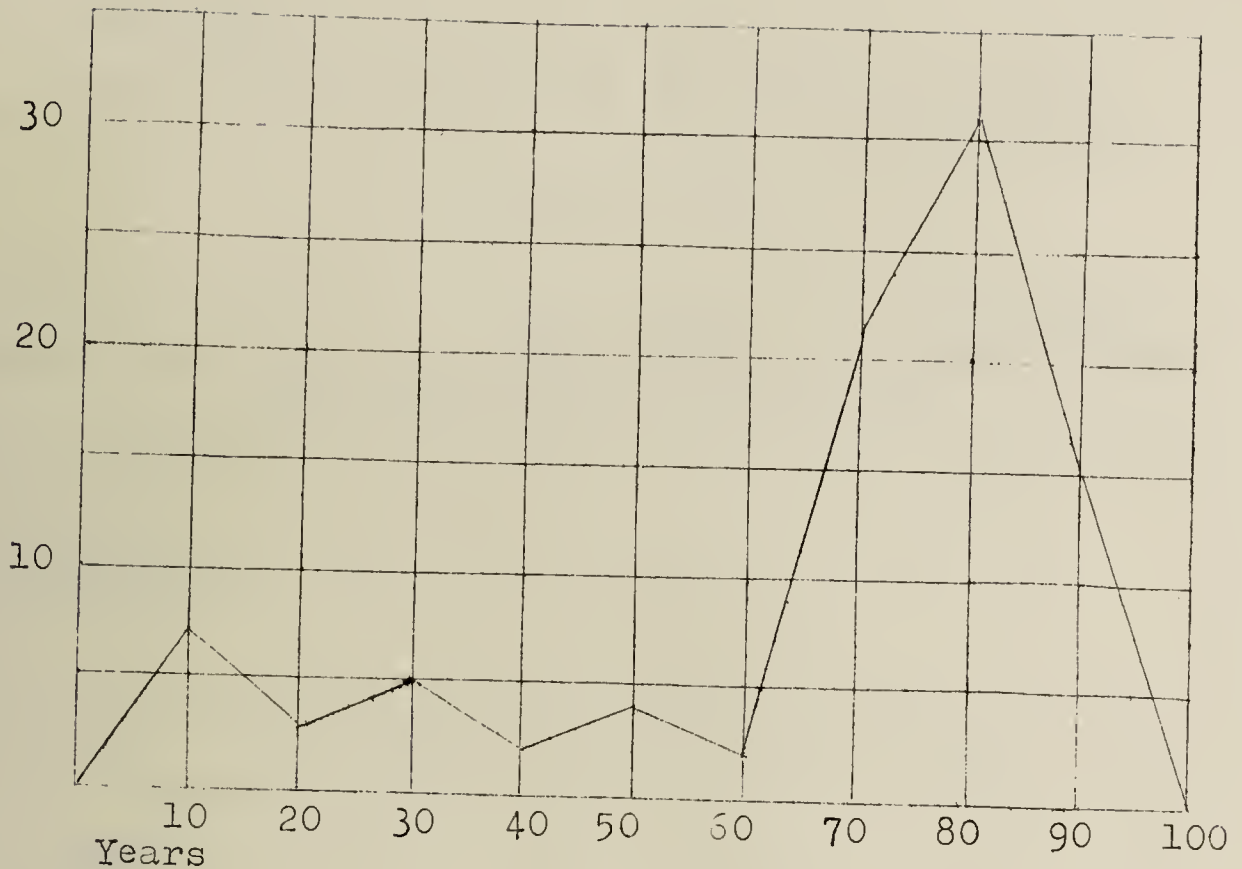
N I L

Death Rates.

| | |
|--|-------|
| General rate per 1,000 population | 11.24 |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 44.77 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 51.28 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | Nil |
| Maternal Deaths | Nil. |

The number of births has fallen by 13 as compared with last year, and the birth rate has also fallen slightly. Deaths have increased by 19 during the same period, though the average age at death remains much the same.

No. of
deaths



The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

T A B L E I.

| | Male | Female | Total. |
|---|------|--------|--------|
| Tuberculosis Pulmonary | - | 1 | 1 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Heart Diseases | 14 | 5 | 19 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 1 | - | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other digestive diseases | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Premature Birth | 1 | - | 1 |
| Con. Mal. Birth injuries, infant diseases | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Road Traffic accident | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other violent causes | - | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Totals | 44 | 41 | 85 |

Of the principal causes of death that showing the greatest change is the number of deaths from Cancer which has risen from 4 to 13.

Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives the causes of infant deaths during the year 1949, classified into age groups.

T A B L E II.

| Cause of Death | Age Groups | | | | | | | All ages under 1 year. | | |
|--|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|----|-----|
| | Under 1 wk. | 1-2 wks | 2-3 wks | 3-4 wks | 1-3 mth | 3-6 mth | 6-9 mth | M. | F. | Tot |
| Prematurity | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Birth injuries malformation etc. | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | 6 |

Comparision of 1949 statistics with those of 1948, 1947 and 1946.

| | <u>1949.</u> | <u>1948.</u> | <u>1947.</u> | <u>1946.</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Live Births | 134 | 147 | 136 | 153 |
| Population | 7,560 | 7,790 | 7,624 | 7,467 |
| Birth Rate | 17.72 | 18.87 | 17.84 | 20.49 |
| Death Rate | 11.2 | 8.47 | 13.11 | 10.85 |
| Infant Death Rate | 44.77 | 6.53 | 66.18 | 52.0 |

P A R T T W O

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

T A B L E III

| Disease. | Jan/ Mar | Apr/ Jun | Jul/ Sep | Oct/ Dec | Total | No. admit- ted to hospital. | Deaths |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 19 | - | - |
| Measles | 34 | 8 | 2 | - | 44 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | - | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | - |
| Paratyphoid | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | 41 | 22 | 11 | 6 | 80 | 10 | 3 |

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria was notified.

Immunisation.

During the year 75 children under the age of 5 years and 65 between the ages of 5 and 15 received a primary immunisation against diphtheria. In addition 132 children received a reinforcing injection. The annual comb-out in the schools was carried out by Dr. Kehelly as in former years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E IV

| No. of cases in Register: | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Total. |
|------------------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|--------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| At the commencement of 1949. | 12 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 35 |
| Notified during 1949 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 4 |
| Removed during 1949 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| At the end of 1949 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 36 |

There were three removals from the Register, the reasons being one death; one removal from the district; and one recovered.

P A R T T H R E E

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At the beginning of 1950 an Ante-Natal Clinic will be held in Knottingley specially devoted to the needs of the expectant mothers in the Rural District. They will be collected by ambulance bus from their homes and return transport will also be provided.

During the year 11 women were sent to Leeds Maternity Hospital; 2 to Northgate Lodge, Pontefract; 1 to Wakefield General Hospital; 3 to Castleford Maternity Home; 12 to Walton Hall Maternity Home and 8 to Hazlewood Maternity Home.

Four midwives were employed in the area, one living at Monk Fryston, one at Whitley Bridge, one at Darrington and one at Brotherton. The last two shared the Rural District with other areas.

1949 saw the issue of Gas and Air machines for analgesia, to all midwives, and it is hoped that the beginning of 1950 will see the issue of the new drug pethedine. Each of these should prove a useful weapon in the fight for painless childbirth.

The following analysis of births occurring during 1949, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the district during 1949.

Domiciliary Cases.

| <u>L.B.</u> | <u>S.B.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 83 | 1 | 84 |

2. Outward Transfers.

- - -

3. Inward Transfers.

| | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 51 | - | 51 |
| | | <u>135</u> |

Inward Transfers.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Private arrangements | 1 |
| Leeds Maternity Hospital | 11 |
| Pontefract Nursing Home | 7 |
| Northgate Lodge, Pontefract | 2 |
| Fairfield Nursing Home | 1 |
| Wakefield General Hospital | 1 |
| Castleford Maternity Home | 3 |
| Willows Nursing Home, Leeds | 1 |
| Walton Hall Maternity Home | 12 |
| Hazlewood Maternity Home | 8 |
| Hamilton Annex, Doncaster | 1 |
| Moorgate Hospital, Rotherham | 1 |
| Manygates Maternity Home, Wakefield | 2 |
| | <u>51</u> |

Care of the Premature Infant.

Five premature infants were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made and help given as required. Close liaison exists between hospitals and Authorities.

Certain efforts have been made during the year to improve the care given to the premature infant. A special cot and other equipment is held in the ambulance depot at Pontefract and is instantly available on call by a general practitioner or midwife. The equipment is carried to the patient's house by ambulance. In addition, the services of a specially trained Health Visitor are available.

P A R T F O U R

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out in the Osgoldcross schools during the year. Cases requiring consultation with a specialist, that is to say, orthopaedic cases; ear, nose and throat cases, and eye cases were referred to the appropriate Clinic in Pontefract and dealt with there.

An ultra violet ray lamp was installed in the Headlands Clinic, Pontefract, during the year, and a number of Osgoldcross children have received treatment there. The need has been great and the benefits apparent.

P A R T F I V E

HOME NURSING.

Home Nursing Services have been maintained during the year, and Nurses Groves and Ashworth have been kept fully employed.

P A R T S I X

CARE AND AFTER CARE.

An effort has been made during the year to implement our obligations under the National Health Service Act of 1946, under this heading. The Pontefract Infirmary found itself unable to obtain the services of an Almoner and after a good deal of negotiating, a Health Visitor was given access to the Hospital, on the one hand to furnish background histories of patients where such information was of importance, and on the other hand to obtain early information of the discharge of patients whom the personal health services might be able to assist.

Home Helps.

The Home Help Service has grown greatly during the year, and the demand for it has increased 600%. It is now proving necessary to exercise restriction on the type of case for which Home Help is provided. The practice adopted is to give first consideration to a confinement and to emergency surgical and medical cases where the mother of the family is incapacitated. Chronic cases are allowed Home Help after the above needs have been fulfilled. The chronic sick can thus obtain help only intermittently and this is not altogether satisfactory. However, the full establishment of Home Helps has been clearly laid down and must be adhered to; there is some prospect that it might be increased in the near future.

P A R T S E V E N

MENTAL HEALTH

Work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts 1890 and 1930 has been undertaken by a Duly Authorised Officer living in Pontefract, and we have one Mental Deficiency Social Worker, Miss Simons, for work under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

P A R T E I G H T

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The area is served by ambulances from Pontefract, Knottingley and Castleford. All these operate on an agency basis on behalf of the County Council. It is expected that the services will be completely taken over by the County Council by the middle of 1950 and will then operate directly under the County Ambulance Officer.
